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SUBJECT: IRAN/IAEA: CANADA SUPPORTS USG APPROACH FOR FEBRUARY 28 IAEA BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING

REF: SECSTATE 31323

Classified By: POL M/C BRIAN FLORA. REASON 1.4 (B) AND (D).

¶1. (C) Polmilloff conveyed reftel points to Foreign Affairs Deputy Director for Nuclear Nonproliferation Terry Wood on February 24, encouraging Canada to make a national statement. Wood said he was pleased to see that the USG's assessment of the upcoming BOG briefing on Iran tracked with Canada's own take. While guidance had already gone out for the Canadian delegation to "intervene in good company" should the DG express concern about Iran's suspension activity, Wood said he would transmit USG's non-paper as well.

¶2. (C) Regarding the last item in the U.S. non-paper, Wood cautioned that leaving Iran on the agenda for the June BOG would go against the EU-three agreement with Iran to keep the latter off the agenda. Though his government was not pleased with this deal, Wood anticipated that there would be considerable resistance from the EU to anything that would keep Iran on the agenda. He thought that this might come up in today's US-Canada-EU talks in Washington.

¶3. (C) Wood volunteered that Nuclear and Chemical Disarmament Implementation Agency Director Marc Vidricaire would attend the BOG meeting on Monday. Though unusual for Ottawa-based officials to attend, Wood said it was as much an "informational" trip for Vidricaire as an opportunity to underscore Canada's strong commitment to holding Iran accountable. In this respect, Wood wanted to draw attention to Prime Minister Martin's remarks at the NATO Summit this week, in which the PM spoke of Iran in the strongest language to date. The PM recognized Iran as posing a "serious proliferation threat," and said "Iran must be encouraged to end its nuclear weapons program and to proceed with (human rights) reforms." Wood noted that the PM's feisty comments, including the first public acknowledgement that Canada believes Iran has a nuclear weapons program, had "raised eyebrows" in a number of quarters, particularly his own building. He said that Foreign Minister Pettigrew also had acknowledged separately that the Government wanted to take a tougher stand with Iran.

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